

Application No.: 09/997570

Case No.: 57002US002

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response responds to the Office Action mailed February 12, 2004, in which claims 1-3, 9, 10, 12 and 14 were rejected. Claims 6-8, 11, 13, 15-21 and 23-23 were previously withdrawn from the application as being directed to a non-elected invention. With this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 6 and 14 are amended, and claims 2-4 are cancelled. Claims 1 and 5-26 remain pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, claim 22 was allowed. Claims 4-5 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4, as well as intervening claims 2-3. Claims 2-4 have been cancelled from the application, as the elements of claims 2-4 are now presented in amended independent claim 1. Claims 5 and 6, originally depending from claim 4, have been amended to depend from claim 1.

With the above amendments, independent claim 1 is now in allowable condition, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. In addition, claims 5-13 depend from now allowable claim 1, and for that reason claims 5-13 are also allowable.

Claims 23-25 depend from allowable claim 22, and for that reason claims 23-25 are also allowable.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Benson, U.S. Patent No. 4,317,249

As set forth above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2-4 and is now in allowable condition. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

With respect to claim 14, Benson is said to teach the claimed cleaning device. Independent claim 14 has been amended to specify that the actuator moves the movable strip relative to the projection during positional change of the actuator. In Benson, "scouring strips 30

Application No.: 09/997570

Case No.: 57002US002

are secured as by gluing to the lower sections 22 of the strip elements 20." Column 3, lines 9-11. Therefore, Benson cannot teach or otherwise anticipate the subject matter of amended claim 14, in which the strip moves relative to the projection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 14 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Benson has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 15-20 depend from claim 14, which is allowable for the reasons discussed above, and for that reason claims 15-20 are also allowable.

Claims 1-3, 9, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Wenger, U.S. Patent No. 6,158,077.

As discussed above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2-4 and is now in allowable condition. Claims 2-3 have been cancelled.

Claims 9, 10 and 12 depend from claim 1, which is allowable for the reasons discussed above, and for that reason claims 9, 10 and 12 are also allowable. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the rejection of dependent claims 9, 10 and 12 under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Wenger has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that independent claims 1, 14 and 22, and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number with questions that can be resolved with a simple teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,

APRIL 8, 2004

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